

Mr. H. H. Wilburn
Demopolis, Ala.

MINUTES

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OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

SOUTH ALABAMA

HELD WITH THE

BETHEL CHURCH, IN MARENGO COUNTY,

1900.

, ALA.

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF
THE SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST.



THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, SOUTH ALABAMA.

The thirtieth Anniversary of this body was held with the Bethel Church, Marengo county, Alabama, October 15th, 1850. The Anniversary Sermon was preached by Rev. J. G. WILLIAMS, from 1st Cor. xi. 18th.

After a recess of a few minutes, the delegates assembled in the Meeting House of the Protestant Methodist Church, and the Moderator led in devotional exercises.

The communications from the Churches were read by brethren R. D. Marshall and I. B. Vaiden.

The following were found to be the delegates, statistics, Post-offices, &c. of the churches.

	CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	POST OFFICES.
FIRST DISTRICT.	Pigeon Creek,	W. HILL, Sr. W. HILL, Jr.* T. Starke,	Suggsville, Clarke
	Bassett's Creek,	A. H. Dubose, E. B. Gwinn, J. Jones,*	Jackson,
	Paran, : : :	J. A. Loyd, A. J. Stringer,* A. Stringer,	Jackson "
	Ebenezer, : :	J. W. Waldron, I. Roberts, N. Kennedy,*	Grove Hill, "
	Ulconush, : :	T. B. Pace, E. S. Thornton* H. R. Williams*	Coffeeville, "
	Horeb, : : :	G. D. Megginson, W. T. Megginson, J. L. Megginson,	Grove Hill, "
	Salem, : : :	W. Latimore, E. L. Bettis,* A. J. Benson,	Grove Hill, "
SECOND DISTRICT.	Nanafaliah,	J. G. WILLIAMS, J. Rodgers, R. D. Marshall	Nanafalia, Ma'go.
	Union,	J. W. Alexander, L. Ethridge, A. Lancaster*	Sweet Water, "
	Elim, - -	Not Represented,	Choctaw Corner,
	Newhope, : :	M. Upchurch, B. C. Foster, D. Byrd,	Choctaw Corner,
	Shiloh, : : :	R. Sample, J. L. Hawkins, P. D. Stafford,	Shiloh, Marengo.
	Friendship, : :	T. TUCKER,* L. L. DEWITT, E. Loftin.	Woodardsville, "
	Pisgah, : : :	N. THOMAS, L. D. Godbold, M. Wright,	Pine Hill, Wilcox.
	Enon, : :	M. Morgan, T. Findley, J. Dewitt,	Pine Hill, "
THIRD DISTRICT.	Linden, - -	T. Ringgold, J. W. Tucker, B. Ringgold,*	Linden/Marengo
	Tompkinsville,	Dissolved.	
	Mount Pleasant,	F. F. Westbrook,* J. I. Westbrook, J. Rob-	Jefferson, "
	Spring Hill,	A. A. CONNELLA, N. Smith, L. B. Lane,	Spring Hill, "
	Providence,	S. Madison, S. S. Taylor,* R. Yarborough,	Spring Hill, "
	Dayton, - -	E. BAPTIST, W. L. Kelly, L. Honeycut,*	Dayton, "
	Fellowship,	N. Lipscomb, L. Lipscomb, T. Walston,	Demopolis, "
	Uniontown,	L. L. FOX, J. Woodfin, Sr. I. B. Vaiden,	Uniontown, Ala-
	Concord, - -	J. REEVES, E. G. Talbert, A. Holmes,	Liberty Hill, "
	Lebron, - -	W. E. Lee,* J. Dunnaway, R. R. Royston,	Uniontown, "
	Bethel, - -	J. TALBERT, L. Anderson, J. Jackson,	McKinly,
	Clear Spring,	R. HICKSON, J. Mixon, Z. Turner.	Fair Bluff, "
	Clear Spring,	F. C. LOWRY, D. B. Jackson, H. Tucker,*	Clear Mills,
	Clearwell, - -	A. SALE, G. L. Jones,* R. E. Grett.	Fair Bluff,

Present. ORDAINED MINISTERS, in small Caps. Licentiate in *italics*.

Statistics for the Year 1850.

[illegible]

*From last year's Minutes. †Contributed by F. F. Westbrook. ‡\$15 of this for Demopolis Mission

The delegates then proceeded to ballot for officers, which resulted in the election of Rev. JOHN TALBERT, Moderator, and brother E. G. TALBERT, Clerk.

An invitation was extended to ministering brethren present, to sit with us and aid in our deliberations.

The usual opportunity was afforded for the admission of Churches into our body. Dayton and Fellowship Churches in Marengo county, made application, and was unanimously received, and added to the third district.

An order of business was presented by Rev. A. A. Connella, and adopted.

The following committees were then appointed:

On Preaching.—T. Ringgold, B. C. Foster, R. R. Royston, with the deacons of Bethel Church.

On the State of Religion.—A. A. Connella, M. Wright, J. Rodgers.

On Missions.—E. Baptist, L. L. Fox, R. Hickson.

On the Improvement of the Colored Population.—N. Smith, E. Loftin, I. B. Vaiden.

On the Southern Baptist Publication Society.—F. C. Lowry, J. Reeves, A. Holmes.

On Finance.—D. B. Jackson, T. B. Pace, M. Morgan.

On the Digest of the Letters.—I. B. Vaiden, L. Godbold, N. Smith.

On Documents and Requests.—E. Loftin, J. W. Tucker, J. Jackson.

On Nominations.—I. B. Lane, J. Rodgers, R. Sample.

On Temperance.—T. Ringgold, N. Thomas. P. D. Stafford.

On the examination of the Records of the Minutes of Bethel Association, by Rev. William Hill, Sr., to report at the present session, or to the next Association, at pleasure.—A. A. Connella, L. B. Lane, N. Smith.

The committee on preaching reported the order of services for the Lord's day, after which the Association adjourned until Monday morning. Prayer by Bro. A. A. Connella.

LORD'S DAY, October 6th 1850.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. E. Baptist preached the annual Missionary Sermon in the Baptist Meeting-house, from Rev.

xiv : 6th. He was followed by Rev. A. W. Chambliss, Editor of the South Western Baptist, by exhortation, singing and prayer. At the same hour, Rev. L. L. Fox preached in the Meeting House of the Protestant Methodist Church, from 1. Cor. I: 21st. Also, at the same hour, Rev. J. Reeves preached in the Meeting House of the Methodist Episcopal Church to the colored people. He was followed by Rev. R. Hickson, in exhortation, &c. At the close of these services, a public collection was taken up, amounting to \$71 10.

After a short recess, Rev. A. W. Chambliss preached in the Baptist Meeting House, from Is. I: 18th, followed by Rev. J. G. Williams in prayer. Preaching was also continued in the two Methodist Meeting Houses, by the Brethren, Rev. A. Sale and Rev. L. L. Dewitt. The congregations were very large and attentive, and seemed to manifest a good degree of feeling.

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MONDAY MORNING, *October 7th, 1850.*

Met pursuant to adjournment. Bro. A. W. Chambliss prayed.

Communications from corresponding bodies were called for: the messenger from the Liberty Association, Rev. W. Campbell, presented a letter and minutes.

From the Alabama Association, a minute containing her Corresponding Letter, &c. by her messenger, M. R. Ellis.

From the Bethlehem, a letter and minutes, by her messengers, Rev. K. Hawthorn and Rev. C. W. Hair. The letters were read, and the messengers cordially welcomed.

The roll was then called, and the Constitution and Decorum were read.

Called for minutes of the District meetings.

Messengers were then appointed to corresponding Associations:

*To the Bethlehem*—A. Holmes, W. Hill, Sr. W. Hill, Jr., H. Creighton, A. Sale. Bro. Sale to write.

*To the Alabama*.—A. Holmes. Bro. R. D. Marshall to write.

*To the Cahawba*.—J. Dunniway. Bro. A. A. Connella to write.

*To the Liberty*.—J. Reeves, J. G. Williams, J. Rodgers, J. Talbert, D. Byrd. Bro. J. Reeves to write.

It was resolved to open a correspondence with the Bigby River Association, and Bros. A. A. Connella and L. B. Lane were appointed messengers. Bro. Lane to write.

It was resolved that this Association drop correspondence, for the present, with the Choctaw Association.

Rev. A. W. Chambliss made some interesting statements relative to the South Western Baptist, of which he is Editor.

Proceeded to appoint delegates to the Baptist State Convention, as follows: E. Baptist, L. L. Fox, J. Talbert, R. Hickson, E. G. Baptist, J. Woodfin, Sr., A. Holmes, E. G. Talbert, P. H. Pitts, T. Ringgold. Bro. L. L. Fox to write.

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 Heard and adopted the following Reports:

Report of the Mission Board.

DEAR BRETHREN:—Your Board of Missions, for the past year have been entrusted with a work of great importance. In submitting their report, they venture to hope that the Association will make due allowances for the inexperience of the Board, as well as for those peculiar difficulties clustering around the responsible enterprizes entrusted to their care.

Your Board met at Spring Hill on the 13th of November, and organized for action, by the election of officers and the adoption of rules to regulate the transaction of business. One of our rules was, to hold our regular meetings at the same time and place as the District Meetings. Another requires us to report to your body all absentees from our meetings. Bro. C. M. Breaker, who was elected our President, having left the bounds of the Association, in the early part of the year, resigned his office and left us but eight members, out of which number, it has been necessary that five be present to form a quorum for the transaction of business. Owing to this, we failed to have a meeting at the District Meeting at Providence, in June, and were consequently six months without a meeting of the Board. This will suggest the propriety of either having a smaller Board, or else of appointing at least a quorum in some one neighborhood.

The absentees from our meetings were as follows:

From the Meeting at Spring Hill.—Caleb Williams, F. C. Lowry, L. L. Fox, J. G. Williams.

From the Meeting at Ulcomush.—Caleb Williams, F. C. Lowry, L. L. Fox, E. G. Talbert.

From the Meeting at Friendship.—Caleb Williams, F. C. Lowry, L. L. Fox, C. M. Breaker.

From the Meeting at Providence.—Caleb Williams, F. C. Lowry, L. L. Fox, R. D. Marshall, C. M. Breaker.

From the Meeting at Concord.—Caleb Williams, R. D. Marshall, C. M. Breaker.

Thus it will be seen that we have been deprived of Bro. Caleb Williams's aid at *every* meeting—of brethren Lowry and Fox's aid at every meeting but one, and of Bro. Breaker's at every one but two. While it affords us pleasure to state that every measure adopted, has been by a unanimous vote of those present, yet it is probable that we should have received material aid in our deliberations, had we enjoyed the combined aid and wisdom of those members who have not given their attention to the business of the Board.

In entering upon our business, we found ourselves instructed by you to attend to several important matters. The first of which was to establish a

MISSION TO THE COLORED PEOPLE.

We gave this subject our earliest attention. At our meeting at Spring Hill, a committee was appointed to "enquire into the facilities for having preaching at suitable places for the Blacks—to look out and confer with suitable ministers to do our missionary work—and to see what could be done to secure missionary labor among the blacks from such ministers as may not be wholly occupied with their churches." A committee was also appointed at the same time, to draw up a Circular to "Planters and other Slaveholders," on the subject of supplying their servants with preaching. At our second meeting this circular was read, approved, and ordered to be published and distributed. Copies of this circular are herewith presented to the Association. The first committee above mentioned, reported at the second meeting, that it was their opinion that "if the men could be secured, two or more missionaries to the blacks might be appointed, with a good prospect of being sustained." They had not, however, been able to find more than one, whom they could recommend to the Board.—That one, brother Jeremiah Reeves, was appointed "missionary to the blacks in the Cane-brake country." We are sorry to say that he, after holding the subject under consideration, declined the appointment, which left us without a missionary to the blacks up to the meeting of the Board at Friendship, on the 30th of March. In the meantime, however, the Circular "to Planters and other Slaveholders," had been distributed over the larger part of our territory and had elicited some very encouraging replies. To this meeting the report of the committee on missions and missionaries was, that there were "many, very many places open for the labors of not only one missionary to the blacks, but of several." They were not able, however, to report any laborers who were saying, "Here are we, send us." They say that the only opposition they had met with, or heard of, "was manifested in a public address at Spring Hill, by the Rev. T. W. Dorman, Presiding Elder in Demopolis District of the Alabama (Methodist) Conference. Af-

After prayerfully considering the subject, brother A. A. Connella was appointed missionary to the blacks at Linden and Demopolis, to preach to them once a month at each place. This appointment was accepted, and he has been preaching at these two places for the last six months. He reports that "the congregations at both places, have, from the first appointment, been about as large as the houses of worship would conveniently accommodate, and on some occasions in Demopolis, they have been too large for the capacity of the hall we occupy. They have uniformly been orderly and attentive and many have expressed a desire to flee the wrath to come. No efforts have been made to excite merely their animal feelings, and yet on some occasions numbers of them, without waiting for an invitation, have come forward with streaming eyes, and falling on their knees have asked God to be merciful to them, and his people to intercede for them." Six have been baptized at Demopolis and three at Linden. Many pages might be filled with interesting details of this part of the work assigned us, but we would remark that we have scarcely done enough to call it a beginning. Our greatest difficulty has been the want of men and means. We think, however, that the prospect now is better than it has been to get laborers. A brother in North Carolina and one in South Carolina, have been holding some communications with the members of the Board on the subject of entering upon this work. These men are known to some members of your Board, who recommend them, as in their opinion, suited to the work. We do trust the means will be furnished to employ them both, if they consent to come out to enter this field. Your next Board should be encouraged by the liberality and co-operation of all the members of the churches within our bounds. The cause is worthy of their benefactions and their prayers.

Your instructions on the subject of keeping up regular

PREACHING IN DAYTON AND DEMOPOLIS,

Next engaged our attention. We accordingly, at our first meeting, requested our committee on missions and missionaries, to "enquire into the opportunities of getting places of worship in Dayton and Demopolis." Also to see what could be done to secure missionary labor in these towns, &c. They reported to our next meeting that they had "seen as yet, no opportunity of getting a place of worship in Demopolis. In Dayton, they say, our prospects are a little brighter. Bro. Fox has consented to turn out as soon as the weather and roads will justify, and attempt to raise funds to build a meeting house in Dayton; and as soon as a house of worship can be obtained, brethren Baptist and Fox are ready to occupy it one Lord's day each, in every month. Some twelve or fifteen members, (among whom is our experienced brother Baptist,) are making arrangements to be constituted into a church at Dayton. We fondly hope for the success of these efforts." We

gladly accepted the offers of brethren Fox and Baptist, and passed resolutions commending the enterprise "to the liberality and prayers of our brethren and friends." Thus stood these matters up to the meeting of the Board at Friendship in March. At that meeting the committee reported on this subject as follows: "Since our meeting at Ulconush, a church has been organized at Dayton consisting of about fifteen members, to whom brother Baptist preaches once a month. Brother Fox is under pledge to turn out and collect funds to build them a meeting-house, but what he has done, has not been reported to us. We trust that God's blessing may be successfully sought on this infant Baptist interest. As to Demopolis, we have the pleasure to state that we have been kindly invited by Mr. McJempsie, (who uses the lower story of the Masonic Hall.) to occupy his school-room as a place of Baptist preaching in Demopolis. So that it only remains for us to secure a preacher for this place, who shall preach to both blacks and whites at such times as may be most suitable." Brethren Baptist and Fox were "requested to present to each of our regular meetings a report of their progress in building up a Baptist church at Dayton." Soon after this, brother Fox informed us that owing to some unforeseen occurrences, it would be out of his power to enter upon the work he had volunteered to undertake. We were not able to secure any one else to undertake this work, and as brother Baptist has failed to make any reports to us, we suppose that this church, as an independent and sovereign body, has now no connexion with your Board. It is highly important, however, that steps be taken to aid this infant church in the building of a house and in the keeping up of regular preaching in their town. We, at this meeting, appointed brother A. A. Connella to preach to the whites in Demopolis once a month as well as to the blacks, which he consented to do. In his report he says: "There are in and about Demopolis some twenty or twenty five Baptists (15 or 20 blacks and 6 or 7 whites,) and if we had a meeting-house and a prospect of sustaining a regular ministry in the place, it might be proper to collect these Baptists together and recognize them as a church; but without either a house or a prospect of keeping up regular preaching, it would not perhaps be advisable to take this course. The white congregations at Demopolis have been made up chiefly of members of other denominations. Some unconverted persons, however, have attended every appointment, and your missionary is not without hope that the great day of eternity will show that his labors in this place have not been wholly in vain." Cannot the Association devise some plan to get a house of worship and a Baptist Church in Demopolis?

The third point on which your Board found themselves instructed, was the appointment of a

COLLECTING AGENT.

Feeling the importance of a more general interest on the part of the churches, in the subjects now engaging the attention of the christian world, and, feeling too, the need of more liberality on the part of the members of our churches to enable us to carry out your instructions, and accomplish the object of our appointment ; your Board, after a long discussion of the whole subject, at their first meeting unanimously "*Resolved*, That one of the members of this Board, or some other suitable man, be employed as a collecting missionary, whose duty it shall be to visit the churches, neighborhoods and individuals within the bounds of the Association, to enforce the duty of christian benevolence, and to solicit donations and subscriptions for the spread of truth, and, especially, for the use of this Board in its appropriate work of supplying the destitute with preaching and religious books." As you were informed by a circular appended to the minutes of your session, we appointed to this work our brother A. A. Connella, who was compelled, reluctantly, to decline the appointment. Nor could we secure any one to undertake this important service.— We, however, yet hope that the Association, or its next Board, may be able to carry out this desirable object ; or else adopt some other plan of increasing the usefulness and liberality of the members of our churches.

From the above statements it will be seen that we have endeavored to carry out your instructions, as far as the means furnished us would allow. With a more general co-operation, we could no doubt, have much more successfully prosecuted these important designs.

Besides the labors alluded to above, we have aided in keeping up
PREACHING IN LINDEN.

At the meeting in March, at Friendship, brother A. A. Connella, in addition to his preaching once a month to the blacks, in Linden, was (in consideration of the weakness of the church at this place) requested to preach, also, once a month to the whites, which he has done for the past six months. He speaks of the congregations, as "attentive and respectful—at times quite serious—and always of a respectable size." The letter from that church to your body will probably inform you of the state of the church and congregation.

As it was the opinion of some that the funds sent up to the last Association may have been intended for the support of a
MISSIONARY IN THE LOWER PART OF THE ASSOCIATION,

Your Board, at their meeting in March, appointed brother John Talbert to labor in that field, which he has done for the past six months. So that your Treasurer's Report will show that, as in former years, so in this, the larger part of our funds have been expended for missionary services in the lower part of the Associ-

tion. Bro. Talbert reports 143 days labor—184 sermons and exhortations delivered—1512 miles travelled. He says the destitute neighborhoods seem very anxious to have regular preaching. I have not been able to visit any one place often, on account of the extent of territory." In one neighborhood, where there is no church, he held a protracted meeting in reference to which he says, "the neighborhood is stirred up on the subject of religion, and there seems to be an opening for the constitution of a church." He states that he found the Pisgah church "without a pastor, and in a confused and declining state." With this church he has recently held two meetings—one of 6 and the other of 4 days—at which there were received by letter and by baptism 29 persons, and the church was restored to harmony, and a good state of feeling. We trust that the word preached by him at other places may be as "bread cast upon the waters."

Having been informed at our meeting, in December, that there was probably in the hands of brother J. B. Williams over one hundred dollars of the

MINISTER'S UNION FUND.

Supposed to have been contributed for missionary purposes within our bounds several years ago, we appointed a committee to investigate the state of the funds, and if practicable, to get them applied to the object for which they were originally contributed.—We are happy to state that the result of our action, has been, that the Minister's Union at a recent called meeting, ordered these funds to be paid over to our Treasurer, which we trust has been done, as they have certainly been lying idle sufficiently long and we have abundant use for them.

We have kept a regular record of all our proceedings and invite you to scrutinize all these records in connection with this Report. Our expenditures will be learned from the Treasurer's Report.

In conclusion we suggest that not only the churches should be invited to send up more liberal contributions to their several District meetings, but, if possible, some plan in addition to the District meetings should be attempted to give efficiency to the labors of your future Boards. We should be glad to see more piety and activity in all the members of our churches, as well as more general diffusion of gospel truth among the destitute.

Praying that the blessing of God may rest upon our labors, and on you in your deliberations, we resign into your hands the appointments you were pleased to confer upon us, and the interests you saw proper to entrust to our care.

Respectfully submitted.

J. G. WILLIAMS, *President,*

A. A. CONNELLA, *Secretary.*

McKinley, October, 5th, 1850.

Report on Missions.

Your Committee on Missions, beg leave to Report, that they have had the subject under consideration, and have given it as much attention as their limited time would allow ; but not as much as its importance demands. We would present the claims of the Southern Baptist Convention. We are gratified to learn that our missionaries to Asia, brother J. L. Shuck, and companions are much encouraged in their arduous labors by the increased attendance upon the ministration of the gospel. Some are earnestly enquiring the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward in that benighted region; but with this cheering intelligence, we received, also, some of a deeply afflictive character : the pious, the devoted Judson, is no more. He was taken to rest from the field of his usefulness in April last ; and although not immediately connected with our department of Missionary labor, we feel and deeply lament his death, as a loss to the Christian world, and especially to the Burman Empire. On the important subject of Indian Missions, we respectfully recall your attention to the report of the committee of our last Association, on the same subject, which being made by the aid of the General Agent, remains in all its importance, with additional interest, arising from the fact that, since that report, a female missionary has gone to that field of labor from our own State. Let us double our diligence in this important work.

As to our missionary efforts, within our own bounds, we must frankly report, that the demand for labor vastly exceeds the supply, and the means of compensation. The report of your late Board, referred to us, presents to your consideration matter of intense interest; first, preaching the Gospel to the colored population.— This we consider a duty of paramount importance, which we are not at liberty to neglect or defer longer than we can find suitable missionaries to perform it. We also recommend a reduction in the number of your Board to five; a quorum of three residing conveniently to each other. We also recommend a General Agency or Collecting Missionary to be appointed. We hope you will use every effort to provide houses of worship in the towns of Dayton and Demopolis, and stated preaching at each place.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. BAPTIST, *Chairman.*

Report on the State of Religion.

Your committee regret that they have so little of a cheering nature to report on this subject. A glance at our churches will give any pious mind the keenest pain. There will be found so low a standard of piety, so few prayer meetings, so few Sabbath Schools, so little active benevolence, and such inattention to wholesome discipline, and enforcement of christian duty, that it cannot in truth be said, that the state of religion is prosperous among us. True, there are reported in our letters, some *two hundred and three* accessions by Baptism,

for which our thanks are due to Him with whom is the residue of the Spirit; but these accessions have been confined chiefly to a few churches. True too, that the contributions of our churches show some interest in the cause of benevolence, but when we compare the amount contributed with the increase of our brethren, and the importance of the work before us, we have great reason to pray for what has been called, "the gift of giving." But we are not without encouragement. Some of our churches and brethren are becoming awake to the importance of consecration to the work of the Lord; and we know that God is on the side of those who labor for the promotion of his cause and glory. May He speed the day when their heart's desire shall be gratified, and all of our territory be entirely subject to his holy will, Respectfully submitted.

A. A. CONNELLA, Chairman.

Report on the Improvement of the Colored Population.

Your Committee asks leave to report, that time and circumstances have been such as to prevent their given that attention that the importance of the subject demands. The religious instruction of the black people of the South, is becoming a subject of much interest to the churches generally in our country; and their peculiar relation to us, makes our duty one of a highly responsible character. They are shut out entirely from any other source or means of religious instruction, save that of the Southern churches. It then devolves upon us to attend to this important and very responsible work. The question now comes up how is the work to be done? Your committee would suggest that special meetings be held for their religious improvement by the Pastors of churches, where churches exist as one of the most efficient and safe modes by which instruction may be imparted; the holding of conference meetings amongst the religious part of them letting them take part in the business of the meeting, and enquiring of them in regard to the conduct of their colored brethren. In this way you may excite their interest in religious matters, and they will, to some extent, watch over each other and thereby extend a kind of restraining influence over each other. But your committee are aware that many of the colored population of the country are so situated as to render it impossible to have them instructed in the way we have named, living in portions of the country where there are no churches or Pastors, and they are of all the most needy and call most loudly for help from us. We would recommend in this last case, that the churches should make provision to sustain one or more efficient and prudent Missionaries, to go and preach the Word of Life to them on the plantations where they reside, making such arrangements as may best facilitate the object of the work. Your committee feel a deep interest in this subject, and hope it will receive the particular attention of this body, and the churches of this and other Associations.

Respectfully submitted,

NATHAN SMITH, Chairman.

Before the adoption of the above report, some very interesting remarks were made on the subject, by Rev. A. W. Chambliss, E. Baptist, R. Hickson, F. C. Lowry, J. Reeves, A. A. Connella, L. L. Fox, showing the great necessity of using greater efforts in this mission, after which it was unanimously adopted.

Took a short recess. Prayer by Bro. E. Baptist.

Resumed business. Bro. J. Reeves prayed.

Heard and received the Treasurer's Report, and referred it to an Auditing Committee, consisting of Brethren L. L. Dewitt, J. Woodfin, Sr. and I. W. Tucker.

The Auditing Committee reported, that they have examined the Report of the Treasurer, and find it correct.

L. L. DEWITT, Chairman.

The Report was then adopted, and ordered to be printed :

The Treasurer's Report.

Robert D. Marshall, in account with the Bethel Baptist Association.

1849.	HOME MISSION FUND.	Dr.	1850.	HOME MISSION FUND.	Cr.
Oct. 8	Rec'd of financial committee, by Rev J. G. Williams, at Providence,		April 4,	Amount paid in Mobile for printing circulars,	\$18 00
	Public collection, Lord's day at Providence Church,	\$67 75	July 19,	Amount paid bro. Jno. Talbert, Missionary qr. ending 30th June, 1850,	87 13
25	Rec'd of Bro. J. B. Williams former Treasurer,	48 79	" "	Amount paid bro. A. A. Connella, Missionary qr. ending 30th June, 1860,	60 00
Dec. 30,	Rec'd at District Meeting at Ulconush, by the hands of bro. E. S. Thoruton,	16 35	Oct. 5,	Amount paid bro. John Talbert, Missionary, qr. ending 30th September, 1850,	105 32
	Rec'd same time and place of do. collection on Lord's day	18 55		Am't paid bro. A. A. Connella, Missionary, qr. ending 30th September, 1850,	60 00
March 31,	Rec'd at District Meeting at Friendship, by bro. Ennis Loftin,	12 15			\$330 45
	Rec'd same time and place by collection on Lord's day,	8 80		Balance in Treasury,	78 24
June 30,	Rec'd of District Meeting at Providence, by Rev. J. G. Williams,	36 00			\$408 69
Oct. 3,	Rec'd of bro. J. B. Williams Treasurer of the Ministers' and Deacons' Union, the sum of	144 60			
	5, Rec'd from District Meeting at Concord, by bro. E. G. Talbert, collection on Lord's day,	14 50			
	Total amount received,	408 69			
	" amount paid out,	330 45			
	Balance in Treas. Oct. 7th 1850,	\$78 24			

1849.	Foreign Mission Fund.	Dr.	1849.	Foreign Mission Fund,	Cr.
Oct. 8,	Rec'd of financial committee at Providence, by hands of bro. J. G. Williams,	50	Oct. 20,	Amount sent Convention by hands of brother Calloway,	15 00
1850,	Rec'd same time contribution for Convention,	15 00	Bal. in Treasury, Oct. 7th,		2 75
March 31,	Rec'd District meeting from Friendship church	50			\$17 75
	Rec'd from Friendship church for Bible cause,	25			
	Rec'd from bro. J. A. Evans. F. M.	50			
July 19,	Rec'd from District meeting at Providence, by bro. J. G. Williams given by some bro. whose name Brother Williams does not recollect, for Mission to China,	1 00			
	Total amount received,	\$17 75			
	Amount paid out,	15 00			
	Balance in the Treasury, Oct. 7th,	\$2 75			

1819. <i>Indian Mission Fund.</i>	Dr.
Dec. 30, Rec'd at District meeting at Ulconush. col. on Lord's day,	15 10
1850, March 17, Rec'd at Nanafah church,	24 20
Rec'd same time and place of the Ladies,	30 00
31, Rec'd at District meeting at Friendship, collection on Lord's day,	6 25
July 19, Rec'd by hands of Bro. Williams from District meeting at Providence, given by some bro. name forgotten,	1 00
Total amount received,	\$76 55
" " paid out,	75 55
	<u>\$1 00</u>

1849. <i>Indian Mission Fund,</i>	Cr.
Dec. 30, Am't paid over to Bro. G. B. Davis, Agent for Indian Miss.	15 10
1850. March 19, Am't paid do do	54 20
" " 31, do paid at District meeting at Friendship,	6 25
	<u>\$75 55</u>
Bal. in Treasury, Oct. 7th,	1 00
	<u>\$76 55</u>

1849. <i>Contingent Fund,</i>	Dr.
Oct. 8, Rec'd from financial committee at Providence, by Bro. J. G. Williams, amount sent up by the churches for Minutes,	66 25
Rec'd same time by the same hands for Association fund,	1 00
Total amount received,	\$67 25
Total amount paid out,	66 25
	<u>\$1 00</u>

1849. <i>Contingent Fund,</i>	Cr.
Oct. 8, Amount paid Bro. E. G. Talbert, Clerk, for printing Minutes,	66 25
Bal. in Treasury, Oct. 7th, 1850,	1 00
	<u>\$67 25</u>

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT D. MARSHALL, Treasurer.

Report on Documents and Requests.

The Committee on Documents and Requests, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to report, that we find nothing in the documents that will require the attention of your body. The queries from Enon Church cannot be taken up by this body, under the constitution. The 9th article requires a statement to be made in their letter, that they have endeavored to reconcile the matter, and have failed: which statement is not made in their letter. All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. LOFTIN, Chairman.

After the reception of the above Report, there was a debate on some constitutional points, by a number of brethren present, after which, the Report was adopted.

The Report on Nominations was received and laid on the table till to-morrow morning.

The Report on the Mobile Lot. was received and laid on the table till to-morrow morning: After which, the Association adjourned until Tuesday morning. Bro. K. Hawthorn prayed.

TUESDAY MORNING, October 8th, 1850:

Met agreeable to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. J. G. Williams.

Ordered, that the collection taken up on Lord's day be appropriated to our own Domestic Missions.

The Report on Nominations was taken up and adopted as follows:

Report on Nominations.

The Committee on Nominations beg leave to report as follows: Bro. F. C. Lowry to preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Bro. Jeremiah Reeves, Alternate; Bro. John Talbert to preach the Missionary Sermon, and Bro. Hiram Creighton, Alternate. For the Executive Board, Brethren R. D. Marshall, Ennis Loftin, A. A. Connella, Nathan Smith and Jesse Jones. For Treasurer of the Association, R. D. Marshall. Your committee have confined their nominations for the Executive Board to five, and have taken a quorum from the same vicinity, for reasons which will readily occur to the reflecting mind. Your committee would recommend that the Executive Board be authorized to fill any vacancy that may occur in their body, from any cause. All of which is respectfully submitted.

L. B. LANE, Chairman.

The report of the committee on the Mobile Lot, which was laid on the table last evening, was called up, and it was *Resolved*, that the committee be continued and instructed to prosecute the object of their appointment, viz: to secure possession of said lot in any way not involving this body in expense. On motion, Bro. T. Ringgold was added to the committee.

Report on the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

The committee on the Southern Baptist Publication Society beg leave to Report: The Southern Baptist Publication Society is now in successful operation, though as yet, upon comparatively limited scale, in consequence of her capital being limited. Her objects are such as must commend her to the confidence and warm affection of the brethren, whenever they are clearly understood. The very simplicity and directness of her operations, and the diffusiveness of the blessings flowing out from her, gives to the Southern Baptist churches a religious literature—of supplying them with those denominational works, of which there is known and felt to be a general and great destitution. Connected with the distribution of the Bible, and a general religious literature, including good Tracts and Sunday School Books, the system of Colportage, which she purposes putting into general operation, is an exceedingly interesting part of her plan. In relation to our State, it has already been commenced. There are now in the field, successfully operating in the sale and gratuitous distribution of her books, whilst they are effectually performing the duties proper of home Evangelists, in visiting families, holding religious conversation and devotional services with them; as they go from neighborhood to neighborhood, preaching, exhorting, sowing the seed of the kingdom, by word and the printed page. The Agent for Alabama has been successful in his efforts, and from his Address recently published in the South Western Baptist, a general view may be obtained, of the state of the Society's operations in our own State. All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. C. LOWRY, Chairman.

Report on Temperance.

Your Committee on Temperance, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report: That the good cause is still on the advance, and the friends thereof, continue zealous in their endeavors to put down the monster evil of intemperance. The churches also in general, are awake and active in removing the evil from among their members. Your committee further learn that there are no less than nineteen Divisions of the Sons of Temperance within the bounds of this Association, which your committee are pleased to state, have not only a most salutary effect in arresting the progress of intemperance, but are exerting a mighty influence on the public mind, against the habitual use of intoxicating liquors. Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association, in view of the good effects to the community, from the Temperance Reformation now in progress, recommend the Order of the Sons of Temperance, to the favorable regard, and respectful consideration of the Churches, and of all good citizens.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOMAS RINGGOLD, Chairman.

Report of the Committee,

Appointed last year to take into consideration the support of Beneficiaries in Howard College, and kindred topics.

Your Committee was appointed with three objects in view:—
1st. To take into consideration the subject of supporting indigent young men preparing for the ministry, and especially those connected with our school of the prophets, the HOWARD COLLEGE;—
2d. To take such measures as we might deem necessary, to interest the churches in this important work; And, 3d. To raise what funds we could for this object. Two circumstances have been in the way of our efficient action on these very important matters. One was, the loss from our midst, of brother Breaker, our Chairman, and the mover of the resolution, under which we were appointed; and the other was, the fact, that nearly every member of our committee was, also, a member of your Executive Board, the labors of which have necessarily taken up the larger part of their thoughts and spare time. As a consequence of these two circumstances, we are compelled to report, that we have done nothing towards the accomplishment of the 2d and 3d objects of our appointment, (i. e.) the collection of funds and the taking of measures to interest the churches in the work.

As regards the first object of our appointment, it was understood at the time, when we were appointed, that we were to take this matter into consideration, for the purpose of reporting to this meeting some plan of systematic action on the subject. This part of our duty has been the theme of our serious and prayerful reflection. When we see so many of our Ministers are past the

meridian of life, and that their frosty locks are assuring us that their places in our pulpits, and in our annual meetings will soon be vacated, it becomes an inquiry, of the deepest interest, to all thoughtful members of our Association, who will fill their places when they are gone? Whence are their successors to come? Of the twenty-four Ministers belonging to our body at the last annual meeting, *four* have left our churches, *one* or *two* others expect soon to leave. Of the eighteen or nineteen then remaining, one is already superannuated, and can labor for us no more, and *thirteen* are among those to whom we have referred, as past the meridian of life—leaving but four or five ministers among us whose ages would indicate that we might expect them to survive and succeed our elder brethren. In addition to this, we may remark that we have about thirty churches that must be supplied with Pastors, and we have destitution enough, besides the churches, (taking into the calculation the wants of the black population,) to occupy the whole time of perhaps not less than thirty active ministers. This state of things suggests two prominent thoughts. 1st. The great importance of increased earnestness in praying the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into his harvest: and, 2d. The necessity of our becoming immediately co-laborers with God, “in bringing about the answer to our prayers, for this blessing.” “But what plan shall we adopt?” In answer to this question, we suggest, that in the first place an inquiry be instituted by every church (among its own members) for such brethren as possess “those gifts and graces, and drawings of heart to the work, that would seem to promise usefulness, if after suitable preparation, they should give themselves up to preaching the Gospel;” remembering, while we prosecute this inquiry, that as God chose not Eliab, nor Abinadab, (whose appearance commended them so highly to Samuel,) but chose Jesse’s “youngest” son, *the keeper of sheep*, so we may find that “the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.” In the second place, let us say to those, when found, “Go brethren to the school of the prophets, prepare for your work, and we will feed and clothe you while thus engaged.” And if we can find none *among us* who should engage in this preparation, let us help to feed and clothe those who may be found in other parts of our State. This will be one of the best methods of securing their settlement among us when they leave school.

We have recently had our attention called to a circular from the President of our State Convention, on the subject of this report, which, in connection with our report, we wish to come before your body. In conclusion, we submit for your consideration, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Circular from the President of our State Convention, on the support of indigent students for the ministry be read, and an immediate call

be made on those present, for either donations or subscriptions, payable before or at our next Association, with a view to raise a sufficient amount to support, for the next year, at least one student, whom our Executive Board shall select as our beneficiary at the Howard College.

2. *Resolved*, That our Executive Board be instructed to employ, if practicable, some brother to visit the churches of our body and receive such donations, and subscriptions, as they may be pleased to give for the purpose of raising a permanent fund; the interest of which, shall, to the end of time, be applied to the support of such indigent students for the Ministry, as our Board shall, from year to year, designate to receive such support.

Respectfully submitted by

A. A. CONNELLA, } Members of
T. RINGGOLD, } Committee
J. G. WILLIAMS. } present.

The Financial Committee Reported,

That they have received from the Churches for Minutes,	\$71 05
For Domestic Missions,	93 82
For Foreign Missions,	48 58
For Indian Missions,	6 25
For Beneficiaries of Howard College,	18 00
For Bible Society,	25
For State Convention,	5 00
For S. B. Convention,	20 00
For Colored Mission,	57 60
For Foreign African Mission,	8 60
For Association Fund,	1 00
The Collection on Lord's day,	71 10
Contributed by Colored People for African Mission,	4 75
Total.	\$406 00

Digest of the Letters.

FIRST DISTRICT.

PIGEON CREEK, complains of a wintry season, in Religion, but enjoys peace and harmony. Has two ordained Ministers, Bro. H. Creighton pastor.

BASSETTS CREEK reports an increase since 1848. Not represented in the last Association. Bro. H. Creighton pastor.

PARAN, feels sorry that she did not meet with you at your last meeting : complains of a cold and lifeless state, though consoled with the reflection that she lives in peace. No addition to her number. Bro. W. Hill, Sr., Pastor.

EBENEZER has nothing of importance to communicate, but laments a state of coldness, and desires the prayers of your body. Bro. W. Hill, Jr., pastor,

ULCONUSH reports few accessions, and feels under renewed obligations to praise the great head of the church for his blessing, has two ordained Ministers, and Bro. J. G. Williams pastor.

HOREB sends up glad tidings. A protracted meeting closed with the baptism of 9: has her regular prayer-meetings which are well attended. Bro. H. Creighton pastor.

SALEM laments her cold and declining state ; has had difficulties; but through the mercy of God now enjoys peace. Bro. W. Hill, Sr., pastor.

SECOND DISTRICT.

NANA-ALIAH reports an accession of 16. Has preaching to the colored population, in the afternoon of Sabbaths, after preaching to the Whites in the fore-

noon; also keeps up a regular monthly prayer-meeting, which is well attended by the Blacks. Bro. J. G. Williams pastor.

UNION, notwithstanding some dissention, has enjoyed a revival, and 34 have been added by baptism. Has been engaged also in the erection of a large meeting house. Bro. J. G. Williams pastor.

ELIM makes no Report by letter or delegate.

NEWHOPE enjoys peace and harmony, has experienced pleasant and interesting meetings, but a small ingathering during the year. A union Sabbath School and Singing Society are in a prosperous condition. Bro. L. L. Dewitt, Pastor.

SHILOH says she has cause to rejoice for the manifestation of God's Spirit:—has had 54 added to her membership by baptism. Desires an interest in your prayers, that she may live in unity and love, and be always ready to every good work. Bro. J. G. Williams, Pastor.

FRIENDSHIP is in a languishing condition, and asks your prayers. Brother L. L. Dewitt, Pastor.

PISGAH, after passing through a cold and wintry season, has enjoyed the presence of the Lord, and eleven have been added to her by baptism. She feels grateful. Brother John Talbert, Pastor.

ENON has pleasant and edifying meetings, brotherly love and union abound, and the spirit of peace dwells with her;—has a Sunday School, which promises good; also, a few additions have been made to her numbers. Bro. A. Sale, Pastor.

THIRD DISTRICT.

LINDEN reports favorable indications in the colored congregation;—Has received a small accession to her number, and enjoys the pastoral services of Bro. A. A. Connella.

MOUNT PLEASANT has nothing of special interest to communicate, but enjoys peace, and has the gospel administered to her faithfully every month, by Brother J. Reeves.

SPRING HILL reports an addition of 19 by baptism—has preaching twice a month, and the colored population receive religious instruction in the afternoon of every third Sabbath: She has also a Bible Class, composed chiefly of her own members, which meet twice a month, in connexion with a Prayer Meeting. Bro. A. A. Connella, Pastor.

PROVIDENCE mourns her languishing condition, and asks an interest in your prayers. Enjoys the services of Bro. J. Reeves as Pastor.

DAYTON is a newly constituted church, and on knocking at your door, was received a member of your body. Bro. E. Baptist, Pastor.

FELLOWSHIP is also a newly constituted church, and received as a member of your body. She has the services of Brother J. Reeves as Pastor; and since her organization, has enjoyed a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

UNIONTOWN says she enjoys union and brotherly love, and has had some accession to her number. Her pulpit is supplied every Sabbath by her Pastor Bro. L. L. Fox, who labors for the salvation of both whites and blacks; has a Sabbath School and weekly Prayer Meeting.

CONCORD has had recently a pleasant and an agreeable season. Some have been added to the church, for which she feels encouraged, and she hopes that the day is about to dawn upon her, after a long night of darkness. She asks an interest in your prayers. Brother J. Reeves, Pastor.

HEBRON acknowledges great coldness to prevail upon the subject of religion. She has no regular pastor.

BETHEL rejoices at the thought of meeting your Body at her own house, hopes it will be a blessing to her vicinity; has nothing of special interest to communicate; and craves your prayers that she may be humbled in the sight of God. Brother F. C. Lowry, Pastor.

POPLAR SPRING communicates nothing very cheering. Has no Pastor, but has enjoyed the services of Brother R. Hickson.

BOILING SPRING reports a small accession, and enjoys the labors of Brother F. C. Lowry, who ministers the word to full and interesting congregations.

FAREWELL has nothing new or important to communicate. She beseeches you to intercede with our Heavenly Father in her behalf. Brother Levi Parks, Pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

I. B. VAIDEN, Chairman.

Proceeded to the appointment of the District meetings for the ensuing year. The first will be held at Paran, in December next; the second at New Hope in March, 1851: the third at Linden in June, 1851: the fourth at Bethel in August, 1851.

Read, approved, and signed the letters to corresponding bodies.

Resolved, That the Treasurer pay over to B. W. Hill Sr., four dollars and seventy cents, for a book purchased by him for the Association.

Resolved, That the Treasurer send up to the Convention all funds sent up to the Association, for that purpose.

Passed a unanimous vote of thanks to the Brethren and friends in the vicinity of Bethel church, for their kind hospitality in entertaining this body, during its present session; and to the Protestant Methodist church, and Episcopal Methodist church, for the use of their houses of worship.

Ordered that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of as many copies of the Minutes, as the funds in hand will justify, receiving fifteen dollars to pay expenses, &c., and that the Treasurer be required to pay into his hands the funds sent up for that purpose.

There being no further business presented, the Association adjourned, to meet on Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, 1851, at Pigeon Creek church, in Clarke county. Bro. L. L. Fox prayed.

JOHN TALBERT, Moderator.

E. G. TALBERT, Clerk.



Address of the Ministers belonging to the Association.

ORDAINED.

WILLIAM HILL, Sr.,	Suggsville, Clarke County, Ala.
WILLIAM HILL, Jr.,	" " " "
WILLIAM RUSSELL,	Coffeeville, " " "
F. F. HARRIS,	" " " "
WILLIAM DOSSEY,	Laurel Hill, Marengo Co. Ala.
TRUEHEART TUCKER,	Woodardsville, " " "
L. L. DEWITT,	" " " "
A. SALE,	Pine Hill, Wilcox " "
J. G. WILLIAMS,	Nanafaliab, Marengo Co. Ala.
A. A. CONNELLA,	Spring Hill, " " "
EDWARD BAPTIST,	Dayton, " " "
L. L. FOX,	Uniontown, Perry " "
JOHN TALBERT,	McKinley, Marengo " "
F. C. LOWRY,	" " " "
R. HICKSON,	Prairie Bluff, Wilcox " "
HIRAM CREIGHTON,	Grove Hill, Clarke " "
W. W. WALKER,	Jefferson, Marengo " "
JEREMIAH REEVES,	Liberty Hill, Dallas " "
WILLIAM IVANS,	Nanafaliab, Marengo " "
B. W. HERRIN,	" " " "
NATHAN THOMAS,	Pine Hill, Wilcox " "
S. WRIGHT,	Grove Hill, Clarke " "

LICENTIATES.

S. LOFTIN,	Choctaw Corner, Clarke Co. Ala.
J. GREENE,	Laurel Hill, Marengo Co. Ala.